

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RABAT 01940 311602Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----060982 311619Z /53

P R 311515Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3767
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USN NEW YORK

S E C R E T RABAT 1940

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS PEPR AG MO MR FR SP
SUBJECT: ALGERIAN SUGGESTION OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN A SAHARA
MEDIATION EFFORT

REF ALGIERS 1023

1. REFTEL INVITED COMMENTS ON THE ALGERIAN SUGGESTION OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN A SAHARA MEDIATION EFFORT. ALAS, OUR EFFORTS (STATE 072238) TO PRECLUDE ALGERIAN MISREADING OF OUR DECISION ON THE MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST APPEAR EITHER TO HAVE BEEN UNPERSUASIVE OR TO HAVE PROVIDED A PRETEXT FOR THE GOA TO SEEK TO TURN OUR DECISION TO ITS TACTICAL ADVANTAGE. IN EITHER EVENT, THE LATEST ALGERIAN INITIATIVE SEEMS PROMPTED BY THE PLEASANT SURPRISE GENERATED IN ALGIERS BY OUR DECISION TO HOLD OFF ON THE RECENT MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST AT THIS TIME.

2. THE ALGERIANS NOW NO DOUBT HOPE TO SOW FURTHER SEEDS OF DOUBT AMONG THE MOROCCANS ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION. THIS AIM WOULD
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 RABAT 01940 311602Z

INDEED BE FURTHERED BY ENGAGING THE U.S. AS MEDIATOR AND IN SEEKING TO HAVE US CONVEY ALGERIAN POSITIONS, SUCH AS INSISTENCE ON POLISARIO PARTICIPATION IN A NEGOTIATING EFFORT CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE SAHARA. A RELATED ALGERIAN AIM IS, OF COURSE, TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE POLISARIO, IN THE WAKE OF THAT ORGANIZATION'S POOR SHOWING IN REGARD THUS FAR.

3. THE MIRAGE OF MEDIATION HAS A STRONG ELEMENT OF DEJA VU, IN LIGHT OF THE LONG STRING OF PREVIOUS UNSUCCESSFUL MEDIATION ATTEMPTS INCLUDING NOT ONLY THE UN AND OAU, BUT SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT, IRAQ, TUNISIA, SENEGAL AND GUINEA. SEKOU TOURE'S RECENT COMMENTS REFLECT THE FRUSTRATIONS INVOLVED, EVEN FOR A "PROGRESSIVE" GO-BETWEEN (CONAKRY 608). IN SUM, THE PROBLEM HAS NOT BEEN A LACK OF COMMUNICATIONS OR OF GOOD-INTENTIONED MEDIATORS ACCEPTABLE TO THE TWO SIDES. IT HAS BEEN, AND REMAINS, THE WIDE AND PERHAPS UNBRIDGEABLE DIVERGENCE IN THE SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS OF THE DISPUTANTS.

4. WE WILL OF COURSE NEED TO JUDGE WHATEVER FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE INPUT THE ALGERIANS MAY PROVIDE US, AS PROMISED BY ALGERIAN MFA OFFICIAL BOUSSELHAM. HE HAS, HOWEVER, THUS FAR INTRODUCED NO NEW SUBSTANCE WHICH COULD MOVE THE PARTIES CLOSER TOGETHER. IN PARTICULAR, ALGERIAN INSISTENCE ON PUTTING FORWARD THE POLISARIO AS THE NEGOTIATOR WITH THE MOROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS WOULD REMAIN A RED FLAG AND A NON-STARTER FOR THE LATTER. THEIR CONTENTION IS, OF COURSE, THAT THE POLISARIO IS MERELY AN INSTRUMENT OF ALGERIA. BOUSSELHAM'S STATEMENT THAT ANY SOLUTION AGREED TO BY THE POLISARIO WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY ALGERIA WOULD THUS BE VIEWED AS DECEITFUL AT BEST BY RABAT.

5. WE THEREFORE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT, UNLESS ALGERIA COMES UP WITH SOME VERY BASIC SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES IN ITS POSITIONS, WE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 RABAT 01940 311602Z

SHOULD MAINTAIN OUR POLICY OF AVOIDING SUPERPOWER INVOLVEMENT IN THIS DISPUTE AND SHOULD LEAVE FURTHER MEDIATION IN THE HANDS OF THE OAU, UN, AND ARAB OR AFRICAN COUNTRIES. ANY DIRECT INVOLVEMENT BY THE U.S. HAS NO MORE CHANCE OF SUCCESS THAN THE MANY PREVIOUS ABORTIVE MEDIATION ATTEMPTS.
ANDERSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RABAT01940
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780140-0381
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978031/aaaaaadx.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 31eb80b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 ALGIERS 1023
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3094379
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALGERIAN SUGGESTION OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN A SAHARA MEDIATION EFFORT
TAGS: MASS, PEPR, AG, MO, MR, FR, SP, WI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/31eb80b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014